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Bangalore Mirror

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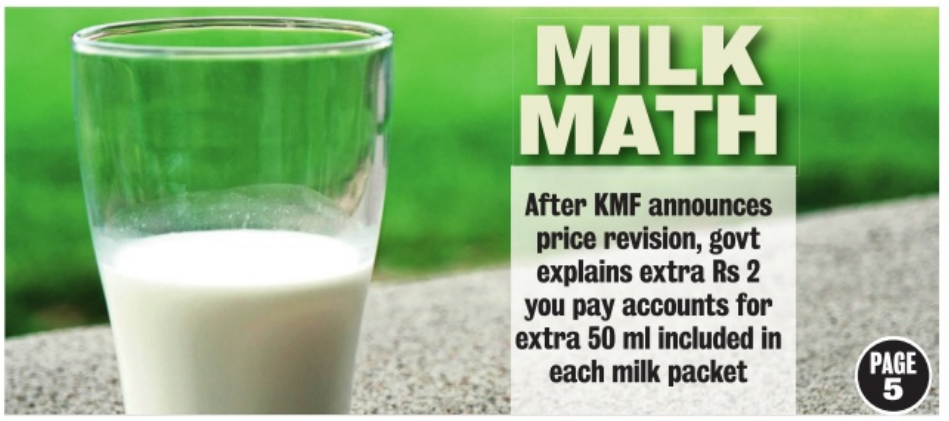
DIG DEAL

It has been three years since road in Richards Town was dug up; multiple requests later, locals are all but ready to give up

PAGE 4



MILK MATH

After KMF announces price revision, govt explains extra Rs 2 you pay accounts for extra 50 ml included in each milk packet

PAGE 5

For nearly nine months, state has been carrying on without a wildlife board, a statutory body that plays big role in conservation, policy-making

CALL OF THE WILD

'List of recommended members sent to forest minister months ago'

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Karnataka has been without the State Wildlife Board (SWLB) for nearly nine months now. While the term of the last SWLB ended in October 2023, the government is yet to constitute a new board headed by the Chief Minister.

Conservationists and wildlife activists say SWLB is a statutory body and has an important role to play in conservation of wildlife, among other matters surrounding it. In the absence of the board, policy-level issues are sure to take a hit.

"The state government has been running the show without the statutory body in place. SWLB members, with required field expertise, and knowledge of wildlife laws and policies, are involved in critical decisions surrounding wildlife in the state. They also have grassroots-level experience and a scientific bend of mind to approach important issues surrounding wildlife. Who is dealing with these policy-level issues for the last nine months in Karnataka?" questioned a wildlife conservationist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"While the board should have been constituted immediately after the tenure of the last SWLB, the delay could have been due to poll code

— Senior officer, Karnataka Forest Department

Ouch, that stings

2 people getting infected with dengue every hour in city

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The dengue situation in Bengaluru is worsening, with two people being infected every hour on an average. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials report a total of 2,457 dengue cases in the city this year, with 1,246 cases emerging in the last 20 days alone.

The highest number of cases are in Mahadevapura and the East Zone (236 each), followed by the South and Bommanahalli zones (113 each), Yelahanka (90), RR Nagar (83), West (77), and the least in Dasarahalli zone (6). However, the actual number of cases may be higher, as not everyone is getting tested for dengue.

BBMP Chief Health Officer Dr. Syed Madani said, "Dengue fever cases have risen sharply this year, with 4,063 people testing positive in the first six months, compared to 1,009 cases during the same period last year. This marks a 75% increase in the number of cases, with the positivity rate also up by 40%. The ongoing fever survey has led to more detections, and suspected cases are being tested for dengue."

And what is more, around 109 people have been infected with chikungunya and malaria has been detected in five individuals. Additionally, many people are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Awareness rally

Be a part of a rally to create awareness against drug addiction and illicit human trafficking organised by St Joseph's PU College on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The rally will commence from the college's Residency Road gate at 10:30 am, enroute Residency Road, Cash Pharmacy, SBI Junction and end at the Museum Road gate, followed by a street play by the students of Dramatics Club in the college quadrangle at 12:30 pm. **When: June 26, 10 am to 12:30 pm**

02 Western classical music concert

Experience serene bliss with a concert by the Symphony Orchestra of India featuring child prodigy Ayaan Deshpande. This is the first time ten-year-old Ayaan will be playing the piano in the city and will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21. The concert will also feature Rossini's String Sonata No. 3 and Respighi's Ancient Air and Dances, Suite No. 3, amongst other works to be played by the SOI Chamber Orchestra.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts
When: June 29, 7 pm

03 Startup gathering

Join in for Startup Sphere 2024, hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The three-day event will bring together the startup community, partners, unicorns, influencers, founders, investors, leaders, and entrepreneurs to discuss a wide range of topics related to startups. The event will also feature a vibrant startup exhibition area featuring cutting-edge technologies, products, and services from various industries, along with the Placement Programme for Experienced CA.
Where: Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation;
When: June 27 to 29

IISc researchers find better way to take on TB bacteria

3D hydrogel culture system will track, study TB infection in lungs & help improve treatment efficacy

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In an effort to improve the treatment of tuberculosis (TB), researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have come up with a 3D hydrogel culture system that provides a platform to track and study how tuberculosis bacteria infect lung cells. This technique will also help researchers test the efficacy of available treatments for the disease. "It is a very old bug, and it has evolved with us quite a bit," said Rachit Agarwal, associate professor at the Department of Bioengineering (BE), IISc, and corresponding author of the study published in Advanced Healthcare Materials. Agarwal added that they have already filed an Indian patent for their 3D culture, which can be scaled up by industries and used for drug testing and discovery. "The idea was to keep it quite simple so that other researchers can replicate this," he said.

Researchers say Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) is a dangerous pathogen that primarily infects the lungs. In 2022, it affected 10.6 million people and caused 1.3 million deaths, according to the World Health Organization. However, the current culture models used to study Mtb infection have several limitations. They do not accurately mimic the 3D microenvironment inside the lungs. The 2D culture plates are also extremely hard compared to the soft lung tissues. "The microenvironment experienced by the

Current culture models have several limitations. However, 3D hydrogel culture system allows researchers to track how bacteria infect lung tissues

cells in such 2D culture is vastly different from the actual extracellular matrix (ECM) surrounding lung tissue. In the currently available culture model to study Mtb, tissue culture plate, there are no ECM molecules, and even if a very thin layer of ECM is coated on these plates, the lung cells 'see' the ECM on one side at best," explained Vishal Gupta, PhD student at BE and first author.

The 3D hydrogel culture system, on the other hand, allows researchers to track how the bacteria infect lung tissues. The team tracked the infection's progress over two to three weeks and found that the mammalian lung cells stayed viable for three weeks in the hydrogel, while current cultures are only able to sustain them for four to seven days.

The researchers then carried out RNA sequencing of the lung cells that grew in the hydrogel and found that they were more similar to actual human samples compared to those in traditional culture systems. The team also tested the effect of pyrazinamide (one of the four most common drugs given to TB patients). They found that even a small amount (10 µg/ml) of the drug was quite effective in clearing out Mtb in the hydrogel culture. Previously, scientists have had to use large doses of the drug to show that it is effective in tissue culture.

Moving forward, the researchers plan to mimic granulomas—clusters of infected white blood cells—in their study to explore why some people have latent TB while others show aggressive symptoms. Gupta says that the team is also interested in understanding the mechanism of action of pyrazinamide, which may help discover new drugs that are more or just as efficient.

Inset: Researchers Vijaya V Vaishnavi (left) and Vishal K Gupta (right)

KFD requests another window to surrender wildlife artefacts

Department requests six-month extension as many people still possess wildlife articles, mostly due to ignorance of law

The Karnataka Forest Minister, Eshwar B Khandre, in a meeting with Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Tuesday, requested another window for surrendering undeclared wildlife or animal articles in Karnataka. "It appears that there are still many people in possession of undeclared wildlife and animal artefacts, mainly due to a lack of awareness of the law. We have thus requested the Union Environment Minister to amend the Declaration of Wildlife Stock Rules, 2003, for a period of six months," said a release from the minister's office.

According to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and the recent amendments made by the central government in 2022, illegal stocking, trade, etc., of wildlife articles is a punishable offence. Previously, a similar 30-day window was opened under the Wildlife (Conservation) (Karnataka Rules) in 1973 and thereafter in 2003 for 180 days to obtain a certificate of possession of wildlife items. Additionally, a similar opportunity was yet again extended by the state government through a notification in January this year, allowing citizens to surrender undeclared wildlife or animal articles in their possession.

Previously, citizens were given chance to surrender any undeclared wildlife or animal articles in their possession in January this year

The scheme was announced on January 10, after the state government realised that some people might still have such artefacts due to a lack of awareness of the laws, and the window was closed on April 9. However, the response to this scheme was lukewarm. According to the Karnataka Forest Department, less than a hundred declarations were made in the three-month window. **— BMB**

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Locals demand smooth roads; BBMP's pothole fixes in question

Richards Town residents tire of complaints to authorities concerned about poor road conditions; no improvements beyond tender initiation despite three years of appeals

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Residents of Richards Town have grown weary of lodging complaints with their elected representatives, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials regarding the poor condition of the roads in their locality. Despite continuous meetings and appeals to the authorities over the past three years, no tangible efforts have been made to improve the road conditions, except for initiating a tender process.

In 2020, BWSSB dug up Rogers Road to lay a pipeline. While residents didn't oppose this as part of an infrastructure improvement project, BWSSB, responsible for restoring the road post-pipeline laying, has neglected its duty.

Bangalore Mirror reported on December 18, 2022, detailing the ongoing plight of Rogers Road residents affected by BWSSB's failure to restore roads dug up two years ago. Despite assurances from BWSSB assistant engineer Santosh to take prompt action, Rogers Road remains neglected over one and a half years later. Former Sagayapuram ward nodal officer Mallappa also promised to address the issue with relevant authorities, yet the problem persists without resolution.

Residents noted that just before the Karnataka State Elections in 2023, a thin layer of asphalt was applied to the road, which washed away during the first rain. They complained that despite the road being a vital link to several schools (Jack and Jill Nursery, Tiny Tots Public School, Florence High School, Clarence High School, and a Madarsa on KM Road), authorities neglected its maintenance, leaving it in a deteriorated state.

Nida, a resident of Richards Town, stated that residents need to follow up extensively to get basic infrastructure in place. "The BBMP authorities need a better planning and accountability model. Our roads have been utterly neglected for 4 years," she said.

> **"We have no other option than staging a protest demanding that the authorities restore the dug up roads**
> – Anna Alex Jacob, VP of RTRA

The residents noted that after significant pressure from the Richards Town Residents Association (RTRA), other residents, and multiple representations and letters to the authorities, the BBMP Chief Commissioner agreed to include the roads in Richards Town in the development works. They added that the BBMP floated a tender worth Rs 1000 lakhs for the improvement and development of Rogers Road, Viviani Road, and surrounding areas on December 6, 2023, but postponed commencing the developmental works citing the model code of conduct on the eve of Lok Sabha elections.

"We have approached the authorities concerned several times. We reminded them about the pending works in the area but the authorities failed to fix the problem. We have no other option than staging a protest demanding that the authorities restore the roads that were dug up for laying the pipeline," said Anna Alex Jacob, vice president of RTRA.

The residents mentioned that a citizens group and traffic police collaborated with NGO Pothole Raja to fill some parts of Rogers Road through corporate CSR activity on May 18, 2024. However, within two weeks, BBMP reversed the pothole filling and re-dug the road, citing preparations to commence roadwork. Pulakeshinagar MLA AC Srinivas stated that the road asphalting work order was issued a few days ago and paving will start soon.

The poor condition of Rogers Road at Richards Town

Farmers market brings freshness to HSR Layout

Local growers, entrepreneurs and artisans come together in Sector 7 to offer fresh produce and handmade goods, strengthening community ties and helping small businesses

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Residents exploring fresh produce and artisanal delights at the Farmers Market

The Resident Welfare Association in HSR Layout's Sector 7 organised a vibrant Farmers Market, providing residents fresh produce and artisanal products from local growers and women entrepreneurs. The initiative aimed to enhance community access to locally sourced goods and support small businesses. The market featured a diverse range of participants, including local growers offering farm-fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Women entrepreneurs added a unique touch with their homemade baked goods, preserves, and handicrafts. This variety provided residents with a wide selection of high-quality, unique items.

"Residents enthusiastically engaged with vendors. They learned about sustainable farming practices and the stories behind artisanal products. This interaction fostered a sense of community and support for local businesses. It was wonderful to see so many people interested in where their food comes from and to support our local growers and artisans," said BNS Ratnakar, Vice President of Sector 7 RWA HSR Layout.

Residents valued the wide variety of products available, from organic produce to gourmet treats. Many noted the convenience of buying directly from producers, which ensured freshness and supported the local economy. "The quality of the products is outstanding. It's great to have access to such fresh and delicious items right in our neighbourhood," commented a resident.

With over 1,000 footfalls recorded, the market underscored its popularity and relevance within the community. Residents expressed satisfaction with the accessibility and affordability of goods, encouraging future participation. The market's success highlighted the community's enthusiasm for such initiatives. Adequate facilities such as seating areas, waste disposal, and parking arrangements contributed to the event's overall success. "The team put in great effort to ensure everything ran smoothly, and we are thrilled with the positive response from the community," said Ratnakar.

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Waterlogged road
Byrapura

The road connecting Byrapura and Haniyur is in urgent need of repair due to its poor condition. The authority concerned is urged to take immediate action before the monsoon intensifies.

Puncture risk
Oil Mill Road

The optical fiber chamber installed on Oil Mill Road, Ramesh Kumar Lane, protrudes above the road level, causing car punctures, and posing a risk to the elderly and children due to sharp iron rods.

Mosquito infestation
Vivekananda Nagar

Trash has been piling up for three weeks near 36, 1A Main, 1 Cross, Vivekananda Nagar, attracting mosquitoes and causing a bad smell.

Vehicle theft menace; owners on edge as bike unlock tips videos surface online

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File photo of vehicles involved in theft cases

Vehicle theft has become a growing concern in Bengaluru, with recent cases highlighting the need for increased vigilance and enhanced security measures. One such case involved the theft of a Maruti Swift car, valued at 6,00,000, from the Bellandur area.

On April 6, a resident of Bellandur lodged a complaint with the local police station that their Maruti Swift had been stolen in front of their house. The Bellandur police promptly registered the case and initiated an investigation, exploring various leads and gathering information from informants. Their efforts bore fruit on June 23, when the police apprehended a suspect near Bellandur Bridge. The suspect was found in possession of the stolen vehicle. During interrogation, the man confessed to the theft. Following his confession, the suspect was produced before the court on Monday (June 24), where he was remanded to judicial custody.

In recent times, residents have become fearful of the increasing cases of vehicle theft. BM did an article on June 15, stating that more than 400 vehicles are being stolen each month in the city. In just 10 days, several other cases of vehicle theft have also come to light. "My scooter was parked right outside my house. Because I live in a safe community and the vehicle was locked, I thought there was nothing to be scared of. However, two days ago, two people came to my apartment and stole my scooter. The incident was reported to the police, and I have been waiting on an update. It is disheartening; I recently got a job and paid for the vehicle with my savings, and now it's gone," said a resident from JP Nagar.

Another resident added, "I have come across videos on social media where people are teaching how they can unlock bikes using wires. Maybe these videos are just for fun or for knowledge. But it's definitely scary to know that someone can steal your vehicle in five minutes. There are no parking spaces in most of the buildings, so people park their vehicles on the road, making it more vulnerable to theft."

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IN BRIEF

'821 caught for riding without helmets'

In a significant crackdown on traffic violations, the Bengaluru South Traffic Police on Monday conducted a special drive targeting reckless driving, riding without helmets, and triple riding in various parts of the South Division, wherein 821 motorcyclists were caught riding without helmets and 47 were caught for triple riding. Strict legal action has been taken against all violators, the police said.

Motorists found riding without helmets accounted for the majority of the cases. The enforcement action falls under the Motor Vehicle Act of 1988. The police emphasised that such operations would continue to ensure that motorists follow traffic rules, thereby reducing accidents.

In a related incident, Kalyan Sagar (aged 19) was apprehended on June 22 by the Bellandur Traffic Police. Sagar was previously seen dangerously wheeling and racing near Ibbalur on June 16, disrupting traffic and posing a threat to public safety. A case has been registered against him under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Motor Vehicle Act. "This arrest serves as a stern reminder that reckless driving will not be tolerated," said the police.

Cops take action against Darshan fans

The Bengaluru police have begun taking action against fans of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa after several complaints of abuse and threats on social media. On Tuesday, police arrested Chetan, a fan of Darshan, for allegedly using foul language against Kannada film producer Umapathi Gowda in a widely circulated video. According to reports, Kannada film actor Pratham, among others, has reported receiving death threats.

They have also launched a hunt for another accused, Nagesh, who is also Darshan's die-hard fan. Darshan's fans have also threatened the media and media personnel for talking against the jailed actor. The fans are also releasing threatening videos, warning critics of the actor of dire consequences. Authorities are now monitoring social media to identify and take action against those issuing threats. A senior police officer emphasised that they aim to send a clear message against the misuse of social media to intimidate or abuse others. —Agencies, BMB

801 cases of violating traffic

The Traffic Police West Division launched a special drive on Tuesday targeting those violating traffic rules, including driving against one-way traffic, parking on footpaths, careless driving, and parking in unauthorised places.

A total of 801 cases were registered. Among them, 332 cases involved drivers going against one-way traffic, 128 for wrong parking, 16 for parking on footpaths, and seven for rash and negligent driving. Additionally, 21 vehicles were wheel clamped, and 269 other traffic violations were recorded. During the operation, motorists and riders were compelled to adhere to traffic regulations and educated on their importance. —BMB

Pricier milk, but not really

'Proportionate increase in price accounts for the additional volume of 50 ml in every milk packet'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The prices of milk have increased, but before you worry about your kitchen budget, there's good news—Karnataka Milk Federation will now distribute packets of either 550 ml or 1,050 ml. Essentially, there's no actual price increase, as the additional Rs 2 you'll pay accounts for the extra 50 ml included in each packet. After the price revision, the cost of 550 ml packets is as follows: Toned milk, which used to be Rs 22, is now Rs 24, homogenised milk is also Rs 24, homogenised cow milk is Rs 26, special milk is Rs 27, Samruddhi milk is Rs 28, homogenised Shubam milk is Rs 27, Santrupti milk is Rs 30, Shubam Gold milk is Rs 28, and double toned milk is Rs 23.

Following the KMF's announcement of the revision, rumours circulated that milk prices had increased, prompting concerns from hoteliers who feared this would impact their daily operations and potentially lead to price hikes on milk-based items. However, in an effort to avoid negative publicity, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified that the revision was implemented to address the surplus in milk production.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that there will be no price increase for Nandini milk. He stated, "The state has seen a 15 per cent increase in milk production compared to last year, with daily production rising from 90 lakh litres to 99 lakh litres. To manage this surplus and ensure farmers' milk is utilised, KMF has decided on the 50 ml increase in each packet, with only a Rs 2 charge for the additional milk. The per-unit price remains unchanged; previously, 1,000 ml was priced at Rs. 42 and 500 ml at Rs. 22. Going forward, the revised prices for 1,050 ml and 550 ml packets will be Rs. 44 and Rs. 24, respectively. This move is designed to support dairy farmers and ensure surplus milk reaches consumers without any price hike."

> **"This move is designed to support dairy farmers & ensure surplus milk reaches consumers without any price hike**
>
> –CM Siddaramaiah

The CM said that currently, the majority of milk is being utilised for the production of milk powder, with around 30 lakh litres of milk processed daily to yield 250 metric tonnes of milk powder, meeting the current demand. "Upon our government assuming power, the daily milk collection in the state averaged around 72 lakh litres. To benefit farmers directly and enhance the profitability of dairy farming, we implemented a price increase on milk, ensuring that the additional revenue goes directly to the farmers. Furthermore, favourable rainfall this year has resulted in an abundance of green fodder for cattle, contributing to increased milk production. To effectively manage this surge in production and ensure it is mutually advantageous for farmers and consumers alike, the KMF has made this strategic decision," he added.

Debate intensifies over multiple Deputy CMs

Rumours of a change in CM fade, but demands for more Deputy Chief Ministers to address caste and regional considerations intensify, potentially curbing DK Shivakumar's influence

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With the Lok Sabha elections concluded, the suspense over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure persists, while the debate about appointing more ministers as Deputy Chief Ministers (DyCM) is intensifying. Earlier rumours suggested a potential change of leadership in the state following the elections, with the results being seen as a litmus test for Siddaramaiah. Despite the Congress winning only nine seats in the LS polls, there has been no discussion about changing the Chief Minister. However, more ministers are now demanding DyCMs positions, as currently, DK Shivakumar is the only one holding this role.

During previous BJP regimes, there were multiple DyCMs, with these non-constitutional positions often created to manage various regional or caste considerations. However, in the current Congress government, Shivakumar, who also serves as the president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), is the sole DyCM, clearly positioning him as the second-in-command in the government. In a surprising turn, Magadi MLA HC Balakrishna, a close confidant of Shivakumar, expressed his support for multiple DyCMs on Tuesday. He stated, "If the view is that having more DyCMs helps Congress win more seats in future elections, then why not? I would suggest that DKS can step back and give a chance to another Vokkaliga leader to become DyCM."

DK Shivakumar is the current Deputy Chief Minister

Now the debate within the Congress party over appointing a DyCM for Dalits, Lingayats, and minorities has intensified. The issue has divided the party as IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge and former MP DK Suresh have voiced their opposition to creating a DyCM post based on caste. In contrast, Minister KN Rajanna continues to support the creation of an additional DyCM post. The party is set to decide on this issue. Former MP DK Suresh, while indirectly expressing his dissatisfaction, stated, "Let's make three or four people DyCMs; I have no objection." Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa believes the DyCM post should go to a Dalit leader, but not under a quota system. Meanwhile, Excise Minister RB Timmapur has said that while demanding an additional DyCM post isn't wrong, the final decision rests with the high command.

Dr Mahadevappa stated that many Dalits are capable of holding the DyCM post and that the position should be awarded based on merit rather than through a quota system. He also emphasised that several ministers have demanded an additional DyCM post, arguing that empowering voiceless communities would boost the party's popularity. Co-operation Minister Rajanna suggested that instead of appointing just one DyCM, three or five individuals could be made DyCMs regardless of caste, proposing that appointing one person from each caste could allow many to hold the position.

> **"In the previous BJP government, despite having multiple DyCMs, they did not wield as much power as DKS does now** – a political analyst

A political analyst remarked, "Some leaders believe that having more DyCMs would help in curbing the influence of Shivakumar, who is currently the clear number two. In the previous BJP government, despite having multiple DyCMs, they did not wield as much power as DKS does now. If you observe any meetings or official events, DKS is consistently seated next to the CM, signalling his significant authority as number two. This distinction was not as pronounced during the BJP's tenure with numerous DyCMs."

Homebuyers want better RERA leadership

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The State Government has issued a notification inviting applications for the post of Chairperson of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA). HC Kishore Chandra, a retired Director General of Police who served as the K-RERA chairperson, retired at the age of 65 last month. He had been appointed in May 2021.

As per Section 22 of the RERA Act, the candidate for the RERA Chairperson's post should have at least 20 years of professional experience in fields such as urban development, housing, real estate development, infrastructure, economics, planning, law, commerce, accountancy, industry, management, social service, public affairs, or administration.

Home buyers are urging the state government to appoint a qualified and knowledgeable individual with integrity for the K-RERA Chairperson position. They are concerned about appointing individuals who lack expertise in real estate and construction. "The state government appointed HC Kishore Chandra as K-RERA Chairperson and former Karnataka Director General of Police Neelamani Raju as its member. Both of them are not familiar with issues related to real estate. It is not clear why the state government is rehabilitating two retired police officers. K-RERA should not become a rehabilitation centre for retired officers in the good books of the government," said retired Naval veteran Commander Surendra.

Home buyers have complained about pending cases with K-RERA and its failure to enforce orders against builders violating norms.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar stated, "Home buyers in Karnataka are not getting justice under RERA because of the lack of proper directions from the RERA Chairman in the past. Complaints are not addressed on time, orders are not executed, and there is no direction on Apartment Allottees Association registration and Common Area Transfer as per Section 17 of RERA from 2017."

Padmanabhachar emphasised that other states have implemented Section 17 and provided directions. He hopes the government will appoint a knowledgeable and experienced RERA Chairman who can effectively implement the RERA Act to benefit home buyers in Karnataka.

Bumpy ride for residents of RR Nagar

From health hazards to transit issues, locals emphasise urgent need for repairs amid ongoing civic neglect in RR Nagar

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The unmotorable one-kilometre stretch of Kerekodi Main Road in Rajarajeshwari Nagar has once again been highlighted by residents.

In a letter to the elected MP of Bengaluru Rural, locals have flagged various concerns plaguing their area, including the sad state of the one-kilometre stretch, which the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has failed to fix in the past two years.

"For the people of the Hoskerehalli area near Rajarajeshwari Nagar, it is akin to hell. The road widening work on Kerekodi Main Road has been ongoing for the past few years. However, it remains the same 'kacchha' stretch after demolition in December 2022. Due to the road's condition, it becomes too dusty in summer and slushy during the monsoon. Residents are facing various health issues due to dust emanating from this stretch," said the residents.

Bangalore Mirror has previously highlighted concerns about the poor condition of Kerekodi Main Road. Commuting on this stretch has become a daily hardship for residents due to its appalling state, which increases the risk of accidents. In the letter, residents also emphasised the lack of bus shelters on the stretch, causing hardship to residents and commuters.

"For the past couple of years, the widening and concreting of the main road have caused a lot of trouble for both residents and traders in the area. While Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses continue to ply on the main road, bus shelters have disappeared, causing confusion and inconvenience to commuters. People can be seen standing in the sun and rain while waiting for buses," another resident mentioned.

Locals also raised concerns about water scarcity in the area, primarily due to a drop in the groundwater table. They noted that improper maintenance of water bodies and unchecked drilling of bore wells have contributed to this issue. If lakes are not rejuvenated and illegal bore wells are not sealed, severe water shortages could arise in the coming years.

Residents also highlighted the issue of the incomplete revival work of Hosakerehalli Lake in the past. Although BBMP started rejuvenation efforts in May 2023, concrete work and desilting were halted with the onset of the rainy season. Locals allege that since then, the lake has turned into a dumping ground for garbage and sewage, leading to a mosquito menace in the area.

BBMP has failed to fix parts of the road for over 2 years

New measures to tackle human-elephant conflict: KFD

International experts to convene on International Elephant Day; aim to devise comprehensive strategies amid rising conflict cases

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A man being attacked by an elephant at the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (file photo)

In its quest to find scientific solutions to the increasing number of human-elephant conflict cases in Karnataka, the state's forest department plans to embark on a unique journey. The department is all set to organise an international conference on the issue and has invited research institutes, civil society organisations, individual researchers, and forest communities from across the globe.

"The idea behind the conference is to come up with a comprehensive policy to reduce and deal with conflict cases. Over the years, the department has implemented various measures such as rail barricades, elephant-proof trenches, and solar fences. We want to explore other solutions implemented in different parts of the country and around the world to mitigate human-elephant conflict in Karnataka," said an official from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD).

According to official estimates, between January and May this year, as many as 22 human deaths due to human-elephant conflicts have been recorded in Karnataka.

Sources from the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department of Karnataka state that the conference will be held on International Elephant Day, August 12.

"We are also exploring AI-based technological advances in the field. Online paper submission for the conference will begin soon, and human-elephant conflict experts from various parts of the world, including Africa, are expected to attend. Experts from other states facing similar conflict issues will also participate. We will also have researchers from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, who have studied elephant ecology and can help us understand the movement patterns of the elephants," the source added.

Recently, Karnataka conducted a three-day elephant population estimation exercise in collaboration with the forest departments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The exercise aimed to estimate the elephant population across 65 forest ranges and 563 beats, involving 1,689 staff members.

Between January and May this year, as many as 22 human deaths due to human-elephant conflicts have been recorded in Karnataka

The estimation provided insights into population dynamics and potential conflict scenarios. According to KFD, the outcomes will aid in developing conflict management strategies.

In response to the high human-elephant conflict cases and the movement of elephants within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve landscape, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu established an Interstate Coordination Committee (ICC). In March, the three states signed an ICC Charter at Bandipur National Park, mandating synchronised population estimation exercises for wildlife in the interstate region.

HC upholds dismissal for absenteeism

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The Karnataka High Court has held that absence without leave constitutes misconduct in industrial employment and justifies disciplinary punishment. This ruling came during the decision of a writ petition by Justice Jyoti Mulimani, sitting as a single judge bench, in the case of Shri G Ramesh vs The Karnataka State Seeds Corporation Ltd.

The petitioner, G Ramesh, was appointed as a messenger in 1985. It is stated that he diligently performed his duties to the satisfaction of his superiors since his appointment. However, he faced disciplinary proceedings resulting in dismissal from service. The petitioner appealed, which was subsequently rejected. He then filed a writ petition, which the Court disposed of with liberty for him to seek remedy by raising a dispute before the Labour Court.

Subsequently, the petitioner raised a dispute under Section 10(4A) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 before the Labour Court. The Labour Court determined that the domestic inquiry conducted by the corporation was fair and reasonable. In its partial allowance of the petition, the Labour Court directed the corporation to provide gratuity, provident fund, and leave encashment benefits, contingent upon the petitioner having any earned leave to his credit if not already paid by the corporation. This award was contested in the ongoing petition before the court.

The central issue pertains to unauthorised absence. The petitioner was charged with being absent without leave for a total of 541 days between December 1986 and September 1999, and 381 days between September 2000 and May 2003. The petitioner claimed he had tuberculosis but did not provide any medical documents or certificates nor examined the doctors who allegedly treated him. The corporation argued that no leave application was submitted, and even if submitted, it should have been accompanied by a medical certificate for health-related leave.

The court stated, "An employee is obligated not to absent himself from work without a valid reason during work hours. Absence without leave constitutes misconduct in industrial employment, justifying disciplinary action. No employee can claim leave as an absolute right, and unauthorised absence violates discipline. Disciplinary action against an employee for absence without leave is justified. The severity of punishment in such cases depends on the specifics of each case."

The High Court upheld the Labour Court's decision that the employee's unauthorised absence warranted dismissal. —BMB

IN BRIEF

SIT files 4th case against Prajwal Revanna

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Karnataka Police has filed a fourth case against former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna from Hassan, shifting from previous sexual assault charges to allegations of sexual harassment, stalking, criminal intimidation, and unauthorised recording and sharing of images. Former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda and two others are also named in the FIR for sharing the recorded footage. The victim, citing embarrassment and damage to her family's reputation, filed the complaint.

Additionally, JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, son of former Karnataka minister HD Revanna, was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a male party worker. —ANI

Midnight anti-hijack drill at B'luru Airport

The National Security Guard (NSG) executed a comprehensive anti-hijack drill at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, employing advanced technologies like real-time communication systems and sophisticated anti-terrorism measures. The four-hour exercise, concluding at midnight on Monday, aimed to enhance emergency response protocols and assess the airport's readiness in critical scenarios.

Stakeholders including DGCA, CISF, and local authorities participated, simulating a hijacked aircraft scenario triggering a swift response from the Aerodrome Emergency Management Committee. Negotiations with hijackers were part of the drill, ensuring passenger safety remained paramount. Hari Marar, CEO of BIAL, emphasised the drill's role in fortifying security preparedness and enhancing coordination among departments. Post-exercise, Bengaluru Airport will review insights to refine emergency protocols and stakeholder collaboration, underscoring its commitment to safety and readiness.

TN minister granted conditional bail

Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin, was granted conditional bail with a Rs 1 lakh surety by the Special Court of Magistrate for trial of cases against MPs/MLAs. This followed a complaint by activist V Paramesha over derogatory remarks on Sanatana Dharma. Stalin appeared before the court and was exempted from further proceedings until August 8, as the Supreme Court also examines the case. The complainant alleged defamation citing Stalin's remarks against social justice within Sanatana Dharma at a conference. —IANS

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRA S TIRUMALE, S/o Shamrao R/o No 3424-A, Vivekanand Nagar, Hangal Town and Talluku, Dist: Haveri, Karnataka-581104, hereby affirm that my name is RAGHAVENDRA S TIRUMALE, as stated in Aadhaar Card and all other documents. However,in my current passport, my name is mentioned as RAGHAVENDRA TIRUMALE, it's clarified that both names refer to the same individual. Therefore, RAGHAVENDRA S TIRUMALE and RAGHAVENDRA TIRUMALE are one and the same person

I, Nischal Harischandra Naik W/o Neelesh Ramaray Naik R/at Cb-00-07, B2 Block, Ksr Cordelia, Dasarahalli, Near Rachenahalli Lake, Ha Farm, Bengaluru-560024 have changed my name from Nishchal Neelesh Naik to Nischal Harischandra Naik Vide Affidavit Dated 19/06/2024 Notary Uday Kumar K, Blr.

I, Mohalatha Anish W/o Sri. Anish Kumar P S, R/o No. 31/1, Amal Arcade, 4th Cross, 2nd Main, Begur Road, Hongasandra, Bommanahalli, Bangalore South, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name from Mohalatha M M to Mohalatha Anish Sworn before notary K.V. Mani date 24.06.2024

I Renu Bhaskaran mother of Malavika.M confirm that grandfather's name Bhaskaran T to be changed to my maternal husband Vinod Babanagar as father for all future documents.

I, Pratibha Anand Rao @ Y Pratibha Sharma W/o. Anand Narayana Residing at Aryan Adonis, Flat B, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098 have changed my name to PRATIBHA ANAND vide affidavit dated: 25.06.2024 Sworn before notary P.Muni Bhaskar

I, ARBIN TAJ W/o Faizal Khan.M R/at No.65, Dharga Street, Opp Abubakar Masjid, Thanisandra Main Road, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar Po, Bengaluru- 560077 have changed my name to ARBINA TAJ vide affidavit dated: 12/6/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Anand Narayan Rao @ Anand N son of late Narayana Rao Residing at Aryan Adonis Flat B, 5th stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore 5600098 have changed my name to ANAND NARAYANA vide affidavit dated: 24.06.2024 Sworn before notary P.Muni Bhaskar

I, MOHAN RAMA CHANDRA Residing at No.35/26, Shakambari Nagara 11th main, J P Nagara 1st Phase Bangalore-560078. My name MOHAN RAMA CHANDRA and MOHAN R CHANDRA belong to the same person. Vide affidavit Dated: 24.06.2024 before Notary MAHESHA J.J, Bangalore

I, Srichand Tikamdas, S/O Late Tikamdas Kukreja, R/o 10/1, Kukreja House, 2nd floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru- 560001 Shall henceforth be known as Srichand Tikamdas Kukreja for all purposes.

I, Mahmad Suhel S/o Aslam R/o 43 Rajshekar Building Vansantamma Layout Immadahalli Whitrfeild Bangalore 560066 Have Changed My Name To Mohammed Yousuf Savai For All Purposes

I, Usha Sankaran W/O, A K Sankaran R/o No 1021/a 2nd Floor 1st Main Bsk 1st Stage 1st Block Srinagar Banashankari Bangalore have changed my name to Usha Ramu for all purposes

I, Uwais Zahoor Wani S/o Zahoor Ahmad Wani, R/at # 239,6th Cross,Ideal Homes,R R Nagar,Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Owais Wani, for all purposes

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Standing committee constituted in February

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972 that was amended in 2022, SWLB consists of the Chief Minister as chairperson, the Environment and Forest Minister as vice chairperson, three members of the state legislature, three persons representing non-government organisations dealing with wildlife, and ten eminent conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists to be nominated by the state government, apart from others.

The members are appointed by the government under the provisions of WLPA and guidelines prescribed by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife Rules, 2006.

Standing committee

Much to the dismay of experts, the state government constituted a standing committee of SWLB in February. This was done through a government notification, stating the committee was formed by approval of the previous SWLB members.

Experts say while the standing committee is merely a project clearance body, SBWL is responsible for making policy-level decisions. The Board also advises the state government in selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas, in the formulation of the policy of protection and conservation of wildlife and specified plants, and measures to be taken for harmonising the needs of the tribal and other dwellers of the forest with Protection and conservation of wildlife.

Experts also underline that the Wildlife Act states that the standing committee should consist of members nominated from the board itself. When BM enquired with officials from Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), they said the list of recommended SWLB members has already been sent to the state Environment Ministry. "The list of recommended members was sent to the Karnataka Forest Minister a few months ago. While the board should have been constituted immediately after the tenure of the last SWLB, the delay could have been due to poll code," said a senior officer from the department.

According to a source in the Environment Ministry, while the list of recommended SWLB members has been moved to the Chief Minister's office, any decision on formulation of the board is expected during the upcoming cabinet meeting.

Govt takes stock of situation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suffering from viral fever, exacerbated by unusual weather patterns like sudden rain and cold winds, which are facilitating the spread of diseases such as dengue and chikungunya. Madani said, "Additionally, 224 people were tested for chikungunya, with 109 confirmed cases, primarily in the southern zone. Viral fever is also widespread, with many patients admitted to hospitals such as Victoria, Bowring, and KG General. The health department has assured the public that all necessary measures are being taken to control the situation, and most patients are in stable condition."

Govt takes note

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah informed media on Tuesday that the state has recorded a total of 5,374 dengue cases and five deaths as of Monday. He noted that the current case fatality rate is 0.09%, well below the Government of India's guideline of 0.5%. The majority of cases have emerged in Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Mysuru, Haveri, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, and Dakshina Kannada districts. The Chief Minister has directed officers to ensure the availability of necessary treatment facilities and medicines in all government hospitals. He has also ordered door-to-door surveys and public awareness campaigns, enlisting ASHA workers, nursing students, NSS students, and other volunteers.

A special mission will be conducted every Friday to intensify source reduction activities.

HEALTH TIP: Aloesin, a compound in aloe vera, may reduce hyperpigmentation by inhibiting melanin production

To ease any digestive discomfort, boil cumin with cinnamon and sip on this concoction for relief

MIND, BODY & HEART

All you need to know about...

Sedentary life risk

Drink coffee, don't sit
Non-coffee drinkers who sat for six or more hours a day were at almost 60 per cent higher risk of dying compared to coffee drinkers sitting for less than six hours, according to a research published in the journal BioMed Central (BMC) Public Health.
This indicated an increased risk of dying in sedentary people not consuming coffee, but not among those drinking coffee, researchers following over 10,000 adults in the US for up to 13 years said.

Benefits of the cuppa
The researchers at the Medical College of Soochow University's School of Public Health in China also found that sedentary coffee drinkers were at a 24 per cent lower risk of death compared to non-coffee drinkers sitting for at least six hours a day.
The result, not featuring in the study, was calculated at The Washington Post's request, according to the media website's report.
"The benefits of coffee consumption in improving overall survival in adults compared to sedentary behaviour are manifold," the authors wrote in the study.

Fewer metabolic problems
Consuming coffee lowers risk of metabolic problems known to worsen inflammation, which contributes to heightening death risks because of sedentary behaviour, they said.

Compound effect
Compounds present in coffee, including caffeine and polyphenols, are anti-inflammatory in nature. However, how exactly coffee works in the body to lower risk of dying is still unclear, the researchers said.
Further, the team also found that sitting for more than eight hours a day was linked with over 40 per cent higher risk of death from any cause and almost 80 per cent higher risk of dying due to heart disease. —PTI

THE BLUES PILL?

Do hormonal contraceptives increase depression risk? A neuroscientist explains how they affect your mood

Hormone cycles are tightly controlled by the hormones themselves. When progesterone levels increase, it activates processes in cells that shut off production of more progesterone. This is called a negative feedback loop.

Estrogen and progesterone from the daily pill, or other common forms of contraceptives such as implants or vaginal rings, cause the body to decrease production of those hormones, reducing them to levels observed outside the fertile window of the cycle. This disrupts the tightly orchestrated hormonal cycle required for ovulation, menstruation and pregnancy.

> **Hormonal contraceptives can have diverse effects as estrogen and progesterone have broad effects on neurons and cellular processes that have nothing to do with reproduction**

Brain effects of hormonal contraceptives

Hormonal contraceptives affect more than just the ovaries and uterus.

The brain, specifically an area called the hypothalamus, controls the synchronization of ovarian hormone levels. Although they're called "ovarian hormones," estrogen and progesterone receptors are also present throughout the brain.

Estrogen and progesterone have broad effects on neurons and cellular processes that have nothing to do with reproduction. For example, estrogen plays a role in processes that control memory formation and protect the brain against damage. Progesterone helps regulate emotion.

By changing the levels of these hormones in the brain and the body, hormonal contraceptives may modulate mood – for better or for worse.

Hormonal contraceptives interact with stress

Estrogen and progesterone also regulate the stress response – the body's "fight-or-flight" reaction to physical or psychological challenges.

The main hormone involved in the stress response – cortisol in humans and corticosterone in rodents, both abbreviated to CORT – is primarily a metabolic hormone, meaning that increasing blood levels of these hormones during stressful conditions results in more energy mobilized from fat stores. The interplay between stress systems and reproductive hormones is a crucial link between mood and hormone contraceptives, as energy regulation is extremely important during pregnancy.

So what happens to someone's stress response when they're on hormonal contraceptives?

When exposed to a mild stressor – sticking an arm in cold water, for example, or standing to give a public speech – women using hormone contraceptives show a smaller increase in CORT than people not on hormone contraceptives.

Researchers saw the same effect in rats and mice – when treated daily with a combination of hormones that mimic the pill, female rats and mice also show a suppression of the stress response.

Hormonal contraceptives and depression

Do hormonal contraceptives increase depression risk? The short answer is it varies from person to person. But for most people, probably not.

It's important to note that neither increased nor decreased stress responses are directly related to risk for or resilience against depression. But stress is closely related to mood, and chronic stress substantially increases risk for depression.

By modifying stress responses, hormone contraceptives change the risk for depression after stress, leading to "protection" against depression for many people and "increased risk" for a minority of people. More than 9 out of 10 people who use hormonal contraceptives will not experience decreased mood or depression symptoms, and many will experience improved mood.

But researchers don't yet know who will experience increased risk. Genetic factors and previous stress exposures increase risk for depression, and it seems that similar factors contribute to mood changes related to hormone contraception.

Currently, hormone contraceptives are usually prescribed by trial and error – if one type causes side effects in a patient, another with a different dose, delivery method or formulation might be better. But the process of "try-and-see" is inefficient and frustrating, and many people give up instead of switching to a different option. Identifying the specific factors that increase depression risk and better communicating the benefits of hormone contraception beyond birth control can help patients make more informed health care decisions.

(By Natalie C Tronson, University of Michigan, The Conversation)

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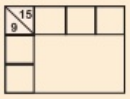
MERI KALA MERI PEHCHAAN

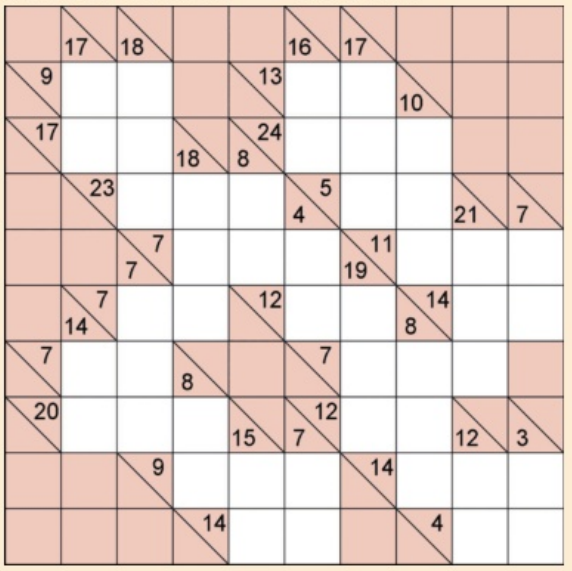
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

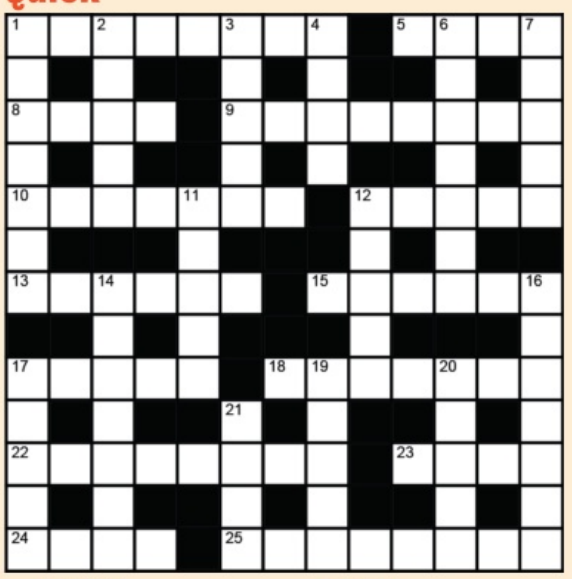


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Capable of being perceived (8)
5 An extent of land (4)
8 _ _ no good : likely to do mischief? (2,2)
9 Person without equal (8)
10 Optimistic or confident (7)
12 Command (5)
13 Challenged or braved (6)
15 Bonding alloy (6)
17 Pay out money (5)
18 Loser (4-3)
22 Movie monster? (8)
23 Shabana or Kaifi (4)
24 Casual worker (4)
25 Vaulting game (8)

DOWN

1 Emotionally moved (7)
2 Still sleeping? (3,2)
3 African tongue (5)
4 Ages (4)
6 Circled past (7)
7 Detest (5)
11 Evil spirit (5)
12 Double-reeds (5)
14 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
16 Heart-____ : very distressing? (7)
17 Faculty of vision (5)
19 South American animal (5)
20 Shaving tool (5)
21 Israeli carrier (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS C

YXDXF SYZXFFCTZ OWPX-WYX LWSYB EGNZ JWC ONSL VWCHLY'Z KX LWYX.

Linemaro

You look cold. Want to use me as a blanket?

Mindchow

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm

Joke of the day

Found on army officer's appraisal sheet: His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity

Loop

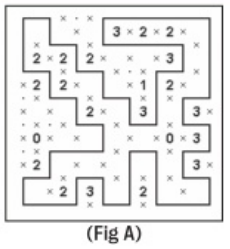
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

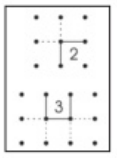
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

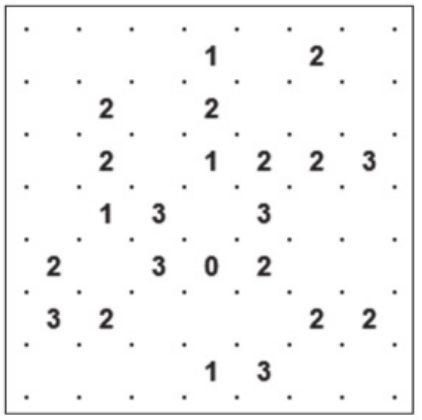
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



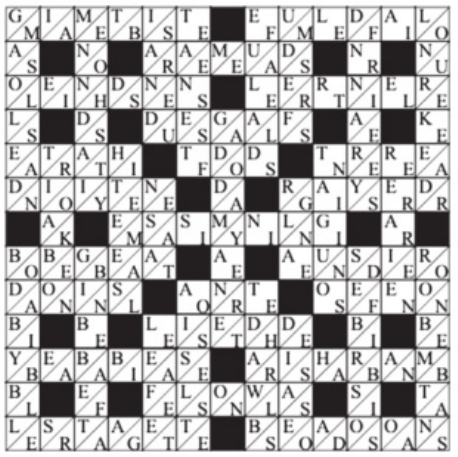
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



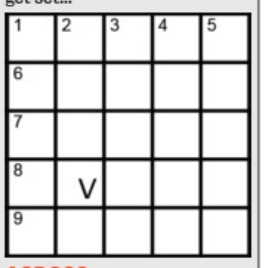
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 On raw; 6 Evil a; 7 Sew id; 8 Revet; 9 Ernst

DOWN

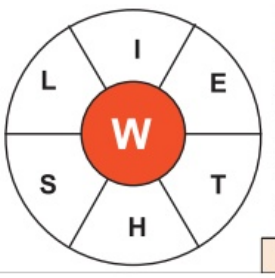
1 WR era; 2 Voile; 3 Edwin; 4 Trave; 5 Stens

Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:

B
TIME

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

					3			5
	9		5			4	8	
5	7		4					
	3				2			8
	5		8	4	6		7	
1			7				6	
					4		5	1
	1	6			7		2	
8			1					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

1 1 4 6

Medium = 28

2 5 7 8

Hard = 2

3 8 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

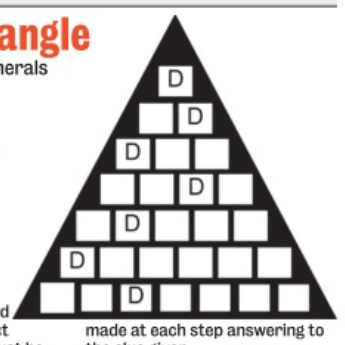
Differences: 1. Back of chair is shorter. 2. Fingers are shown holding back cover of book. 3. Light is moved. 4. Music note is different. 5. Sleeve is shorter. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

What does this rebus represent?
J. Big travels 1 mile. C. Medium travels 5 miles.
A. Little travels 1,000 miles.

Alpha triangle

1 500 in roman numerals
2 Ego's partner?
3 Casting mould
4 Ocean motion
5 Works on a book
6 Assimilate
7 Small gadgets

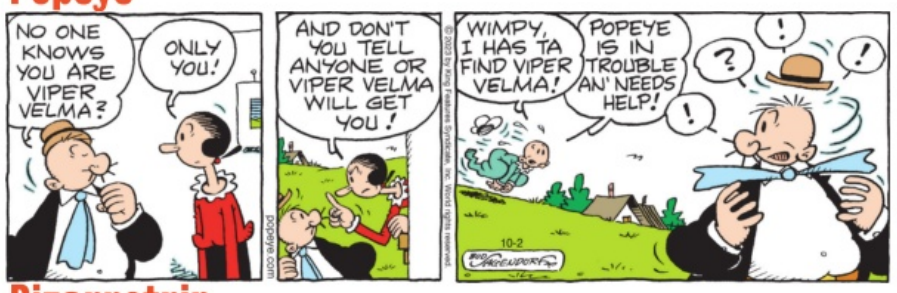


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

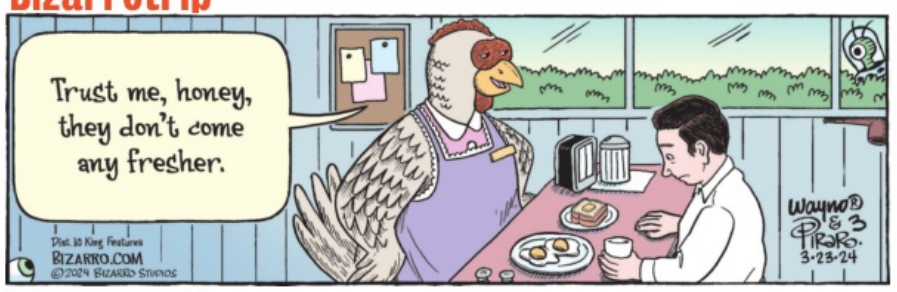
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


NO ONE KNOWS YOU ARE VIPER VELMA?
ONLY YOU!
AND DON'T YOU TELL ANYONE OR VIPER VELMA WILL GET YOU!
WIMPY, I HAS TA FIND VIPER VELMA!
POPEYE IS IN TROUBLE AN' NEEDS HELP!
10-2

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THE SPRING CARNIVAL!!
CARNIVAL
I WANNA GET ON EVERY RIDE AT LEAST ONCE.
THAT'S A LOT OF RIDES. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING?
AS LONG AS IT TAKES!
WE CLOSE AT TEN.
I'LL BE HERE TILL 9:59 THEN!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

THERE'S GRANDMA JOHNSON WAITING FOR ME AT THE END OF HER DRIVE!
NO MATTER HOW I MIX UP MY START TIMES AND VARY MY SPEED...
SHE HAS THIS UNCANNY ABILITY TO KNOW WHERE I AM AT ALL TIMES!
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
3-23

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by positive planets, boosting your confidence. You will be able to make important decisions confidently and seize opportunities without hesitation. You may spend money on family and friends. Love birds will enjoy happy moments, and job seekers might find suitable opportunities with the help of friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may bring a dull feeling, and you might not enjoy your day. Arrogance could affect both your professional and domestic life. You may feel a lack of confidence, which could hinder your creativity at work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you will feel energetic and perform better at work. Your hard work is likely to pay off, boosting your confidence. Property disputes with siblings may be resolved, and meeting an influential person could boost your business.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Blessed by the moon, you will be happy today. You are likely to get a good opportunity through your communication skills. Being polite with those around you and making difficult business decisions with the help of colleagues may increase your prestige in society.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel disappointed. Control your arrogance, or you may face losses due to your speech. Love birds should be careful in discussions to avoid affecting their relationship.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel disappointed. Control your arrogance, or you may face losses due to your speech. Love birds should be careful in discussions to avoid affecting their relationship.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you will have peace of mind. You may plan to invest some capital in your business, increasing liquidity. Your earnings will boost your savings. You will enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing family harmony. Singles may find a suitable match, and love birds might decide to marry.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Blessed by the positive moon, your losses may turn into profits. Your boss will appreciate your work, and you may get a promotion or transfer. Your opponents and hidden enemies will be under control. Singles and love birds may make important decisions about marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

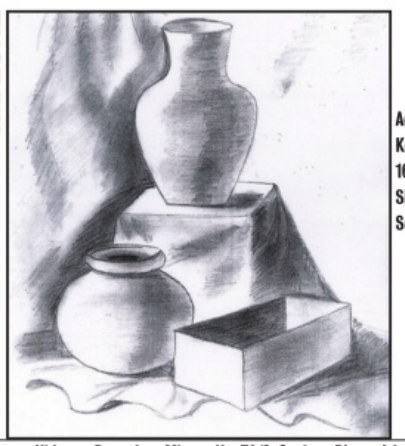
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Situations are under control today, and you will feel better. You may plan for overseas travel. Your network will help you at work, and domestic harmony will increase. You will be more creative, possibly bringing artefacts or creative items for your family or office. You may also plan to watch movies or engage in other entertainment with friends or family.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
At the start of the week, you can expect financial gains. Balancing earnings and expenses will boost your bank balance. You will perform better at your job, and your boss may give you new responsibilities, possibly leading to promotions. You will get back money from lenders and control your opponents and hidden enemies. Health will improve.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may plan to renovate your house or buy items to decorate it, maintaining your social status. Harmony with your spouse will create a peaceful domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners will likely be settled. You may receive good news regarding legal matters.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the positive moon, you will feel healthy, and old health issues may be cured. You may recover money that was stuck somewhere and apply for a loan to buy luxury items.

KIDZONE



Adithya Keshav, 16 Years, Sindhi High School

Surya Prajin , 10 Years, Citizen's High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√[(1+2+6/2)+4)] ÷ (10+24) =
√[(1+2+3+4) ÷ (10 + 24)] =
√[(6 + 4) ÷ (10 + 24)] =
√(10 ÷ (10 + 24)] =
√1 + 24 =
√25 = 5

BULL'S EYE
slew, stew, welt, west, whet, while, WHISTLE, whit, white, wile, wilt, wise, wish, with

FAST FIVE

R	O	W	A	N
A	L	I	V	E
W	I	D	E	S
E	V	E	R	T
R	E	N	T	S

STRIKE OUT

E	S	T	A	T	E		S	E	A	S	O	N		
L	E		F	L	O	W	S		I		R	A		
B	A	B	I	E	S		A	S	H	R	A	M		
B		B	L	I	T	H	E		B		E			
A	N	I	L		A	N	T		S	E	E	N		
B	E	G	A	T		A		A	U	D	I	O		
K		M	A	I	M	I	N	G		R				
D	O	Y	E	N		A		R	A	S	E	D		
E	T	A	H		T	D	S		T	R	E	E		
L		D		D	E	A	L	S		A		K		
L	I	N	D	E	N		E	E	R	I	E	R		
A		O		R	E	M	U	S		R		U		
G	A	M	B	I	T		F	U	L	F	I	L		

QUICK

T	E	M	P		L	E	A	P	F	R	O	G		
H		O		A		M		O		N				
G	O	D	Z	I	L	L	A		A	Z	M	I		
I		E		L		E		A		D				
S	P	E	N	D		A	L	S	O	R	A	N		
			N		R									
D	E	F	I	E	D		S	O	L	O	E	R		
E			I		B		E							
H	O	P	E	F	U	L		O	R	D	E	R		
C		U		T		S		N				O		
U	P	T	O		N	O	N	E	S	U	C	H		
O		O		A		O		O		B				
T	A	N	G	I	B	L	E		A	R	E	A		

MENSA PUZZLE
be-on-time

RIDDLER
A little goes a long way.

QUOTE UNCODE
Never interrupt someone doing what you said couldn't be done.

SUDOKU

8	4	5	1	2	9	6	3	7
9	1	6	3	5	7	8	2	4
7	2	3	6	8	4	9	5	1
1	8	4	7	3	5	2	6	9
2	5	9	8	4	6	1	7	3
6	3	7	9	1	2	5	4	8
5	7	1	4	6	8	3	9	2
3	9	2	5	7	1	4	8	6
4	6	8	2	9	3	7	1	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Id, Die, Tide, Edits, Digest, Widgets.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 4 – 1 – 1 = 8
Medium
8 x 2 + 7 + 5 = 28
Hard
6 + 8 – 9 – 3 = 2

KAKURO

9	8	1	7	6	3	2	4	5
3	9	2	8	4	5	7	1	6
4	6	5	1	9	7	3	8	2
8	7	6	9	5	2	4	3	1
1	5	4	2	3	6	8	9	7
2	3	9	4	8	1	6	5	7
5	2	7	6	1	8	9	7	3
6	1	8	3	7	9	5	2	4
7	4	3	5	2	4	1	6	9

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On Raashii's wishlist

'Would love to work with Prabhas'

Actress Raashii Khanna, who has completed a decade in the acting industry, has shared her Tollywood wishlist, expressing her desire to work with stars such as Prabhas and Mahesh Babu.

Talking about the actors she wants to collaborate with, Raashii said: "I really want to work with Mahesh Babu. I've said this a lot of times. I think we'd look great on screen."

The actress said that she'd love to work with Prabhas. "He's doing great work. I loved the 'Kalki 2898 AD' trailer. Looking forward to it," she added.

Raashii made her acting debut in 2014 with the Telugu film 'Oohalu Gusagusalade', which she claimed was her first brush with fandom.

Directed by Srinivas Avasarala, the romantic drama also stars Naga Shaurya and is adapted from the French play 'Cyrano de Bergerac' by Edmond Rostand.

Currently, Raashii, who is affectionately called the Tamil "golden girl" by her fans, has a big lineup of films, including 'The Sabarmati Report' and 'Talakhon Mein Ek'. She also has a Telugu film, 'Telusu Kada', in the pipeline.

Talking about 'The Sabarmati Report', Raashii will be seen starring opposite actor Vikrant Massey for the first time. The drama thriller is inspired by true events that took place on the Sabarmati Express in 2002.

The film is slated for release on August 2. She was last seen in the comedy horror film 'Aranmanai 4' with actress Tamannaah Bhatia, directed by Sundar C.

— IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Shining in Tamil

Some Sandalwood actors entered Kollywood and earned fame. Now, Akshita Bopaiah from Sandalwood is playing the lead in Love/Fi, an anthology film in Tamil. As of now, dubbing and re-recording of Love/Fi, a compilation of five short stories, is in progress.

"I dubbed my voice for my maiden movie in Tamil. Speaking Tamil was tough when I made my debut on the small screen a few years ago. Now, I can speak Tamil fluently," says Akshita.

Akshita, who has acted in Kannada movies Real Police and Shiva Arjuna, played the female lead in Tamil tele serials. "The director saw me in the tele serials and picked me as a heroine in one of the five short stories of Love/Fi," said Akshita.

She said that her Kannada movies Karnataka Aliya and Mr & Mrs are yet to be released. "A few directors have approached me for my call-sheet but I am yet to take a call on it," she said. When asked about entering Tollywood, she said she is open to acting in a movie but not in serials.

Shoot begins

The muhurat function of the film The Present was held on Saturday at Sri Kanteerava Studios. Former MP Shivarame Gowda sounded the clap board while Ramesh, a young farmer from Tumakuru, switched on the camera. Police Officer Naveen Kumar from Crime Branch was the guest of honour at the muhurat function.

Rajiv Rathod, the son-in-law of Shivarame Gowda, is playing the lead in the movie that is being bankrolled by Global Entertainment Network (GEN).

Shivapoorna of GEN said he is handling the megaphone for The Present. "The movie consists of mythological elements. I took more than a year to write the script. The story is about a soul with two births. It has three parts – present, past, and future. The movie begins with the present and later it narrates about the past and future. It is fiction. The movie will keep the audiences on the edge of their seat," said Shivapoorna.

Thanking Ramesh, the farmer, Shivapoorna said the movie would also highlight how children of farmers neglect their parents. "Most of the shoot of the movie will be held in and around Bengaluru and Kerala," the director said.

The movie features Rajiv Rathod, Diya, Manasa Gowda, Baby Aradhya and others.

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